United Nations

Daily Highlights

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THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali announces appointment of Force Commander and other senior officials to head United Nations Protection Force in Yugoslavia; directors of special components of United Nations Transition Authority in Cambodia also appointed; Joseph Vernon Reed of the United States appointed as Special Representative for Public Affairs in charge of the 50th anniversary of the United Nations.

+ United Nations spokesman reports attack on United Nations ship carrying food supplies to Mogadiscio, only two days after signing of Somalian cease-fire agreement on 3 March.

+ Secretary-General cites recent meetings in Tripoli between his Envoy, Vasiliy Safronchuk, and Libyan President Colonel El-Qaddafi, in report issued before announcement of Libya's decision to hand over dispute to International Court of Justice.

+ World Health Organization calls on Earth Summit to put links between health and environmental degradation high on its agenda.

+ Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission to meet 8 to 16 April in New York to address actual demarcation of border between the two countries.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali announced today his appointments to head the United Nations Protection Force in Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR) and the United Nations Transition Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

His Spokesman, François Giuliani, informed correspondents of the appointments which include Lieutenant General Satish Nambiar as Force Commander of UNPROFOR, effective immediately; Major-General Philippe Morillon as Deputy Force Commander; Mr. Cedric Thornberry as Director of Civil Affairs in the civilian component; Mr. Kjell Johansen as Commander of the Civilian Police; Frederic Eckhard as Spokesman for UNPROFOR.

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The Spokesman further announced Mr. Boutros-Ghali's appointments of the directors of the special components of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), who will serve under the Secretary-General's Special Representative, Yasushi Akashi. For the Human Rights component: Mr. Dennis McNamara (Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Cambodian Assistance Programme); the electoral component: Prof. R.H.F. Austin (Head of the United Nations survey mission); the refugee repatriation component: Mr. S. Vieira de Mello of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); the rehabilitation component: Mr. Benjamin Bernander of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); the civilian police component: Col. Klaas Roos (Netherlands); civil administration: to be filled.

The appointment of the Force Commander of UNTAC would be announced shortly.

The Spokesman also announced the appointment of Joseph Vernon Reed as Special Representative for Public Affairs. Mr. Reed will be in charge of preparations for the 50th anniversary of the United Nations.

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Only two days after the signing of the cease-fire agreement in Mogadiscio on 3 March, reports reached Headquarters today that a World Food Programme (WFP) ship carrying food supplies to the Somalian capital had been fired at by forces guarding the port and had to return to Mombasa.

Briefing correspondents about the incident, Spokesman François Giuliani said that medical supplies and shelter material provided over the last four days by United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) had already been flown into Mogadiscio by World Food Programme (WFP) transport planes. He said Under-Secretary-General James O.C. Jonah, the Secretary-General's special envoy to Somalia, had protested to the various parties to the cease-fire agreement over the incident.

The Spokesman further announced that the joint mission of the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the League of Arab States had ended its first six-day visit to Somalia today. The mission is part of a proposed series of visits for meetings with political and clan leaders in parts of Somalia outside Mogadiscio to solicit views and suggestions on the holding of a conference on national reconciliation and unity in Somalia. The conference is seen as the second phase in a joint international initiative for peace in Somalia.

Under-Secretary-General Jonah is expected to report to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali on the outcome of the mission on Friday, 6 March.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali says in his latest report on Libya that while the Security Council's request for Libyan cooperation in establishing responsibility for the destruction of Pam Am flight 103 and UTA

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flight 772 has "not yet been complied with", there has been "a certain evolution in the position of the Libyan authorities" since his last report of 11 February.

The Secretary-General's report to the Security Council was issued on 3 March, before the announcement yesterday that Libya had submitted its dispute with the United States and the United Kingdom to the International Court of Justice. Mr. Boutros-Ghali said yesterday that the case was now in the hands of the Court.

In his report, the Secretary-General cites two meetings held on 24 and 27 February in Tripoli between his Envoy, Vasiliy Safronchuk, and Libyan President Colonel El-Qaddafi. He reports that during those meetings, the Libyan leader made clear that "constitutional obstructions" prevented his Government from handling over "Libyan citizens abroad for trial in the absence of an extradition treaty". However, Libya would agree to act on the French proposal that a judge come to Libya to investigate the case. Colonel El-Qaddafi further stated that, although it was premature to discuss the question of compensation, Libya would guarantee such payment awarded "as a result of responsibility of its suspected citizens if they are unable to pay it themselves".

The Secretary-General also reported that on 26 February, while in Geneva, he had met with a special envoy of Colonel Qaddafi, Mr. Yusef Debri, Head of the Libyan Intelligence, with whom he had reviewed the entire situation.

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The World Health Organization (WHO) has called for the Earth Summit to put the link between health and the environment high on its agenda. A new report by the Agency on health and environmental degradation will be the WHO's main contribution to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to be held in Rio de Janeiro in June.

According to the report, diseases related to the environment and to lifestyle, especially infectious diseases and cancer, kill an estimated 75 per cent of the 49 million people who die each year. Some 2.5 billion people suffer from illnesses associated with insufficient or contaminated water and lack of sanitation.

The Agency says that the report, produced by the WHO Commission on Health and Environment after a two-year study of the links between the health environmental degradation, is the first comprehensive analysis that puts people's health first.

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The Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission said in a statement today that contrary to recent press reports, no recommendations or decisions on the

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boundary between the two countries have yet been made. The Commission will meet in New York from 8 to 16 April and will then review the results of its surveying and mapping and address the actual demarcation of the boundary.

Mandated by the Security Council's resolution 687 (1991), the Commission has been gathering data for determining the precise boundary for demarcation purposes between Iraq and Kuwait. New highly accurate maps, along with earlier maps, will produce maps covering the entire length of the boundary.

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